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Richard Nugent, Editor]

THE WHOLE ART OF GOVERNMENT CONSISTS IN THE ART OF BEING HONEST.—Jefferson.

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POETRY.

SLEEP.

BY ELIZA COOK.

I've mourned the dark long night away
With bitter tears and vain regret,
Till grief-sick, at the break of day
I've left a pillow cold and wet.

I've risen from a restless bed,
Sad, trembling, spiritless, and weak,
With all my brows young freshness fled,
With fluttering lips and bloodless cheeks.

Hard was the task for aching eyes
So long to wake, so long to weep;
But well it taught me how to prove
That precious, matchless blessing, sleep.

I've counted every chiming hour
While languishing "neath senseless pain;
While fever raged with demon power
To drink my breath and scorch my brain.

And oh! what earnest looks were given,
What wild imploring words arose;
How eagerly I asked of Heaven
A few brief moments of repose.

Oh! ye who rest each passing night
In peaceful slumber, calm and deep,
Fail not to kneel at morning's light
And thank your God for health and sleep.

For the Jefferson Republican.

The following is a deeply interesting case, and deserves to be closely studied by all who wish to understand the philosophy of the human mind.—The case of James Mitchell of Scotland, as related by Dugald Stewart in his system of Philosophy, (vol. 3. appendix,) was thought of sufficient importance to occupy fifty-six pages of that work; yet Laura Bridgman presents a stronger case than that of Mitchell. He, though deaf, and partially blind, had for a short period enjoyed the sense of sight; and his senses of taste and smell were wonderfully acute; while her communication with the external world is closed at every avenue except that of touch.

Mitchell's case was brought forward in proof and illustration of the essential difference between Man and the lower animals, in respect to mind; and for this purpose Laura Bridgman's case would be still more apposite. It may seem strange that men of learning and ingenuity should seriously set themselves to degrade the human species to a level with the beasts that perish; but so it is—Helvetius taught that the intellectual superiority of Man over the brute creation, was accidental; altogether the result of circumstances, the principal of which was, his perfect physical organization. Said he, "If the wrist of man had been terminated by the hoof of the horse, the species would still have been wandering in the forest." Strange conclusion. But the infidel philosophers of France, and their imitators both in England and in this country, were fond of singularity. Their object was to overturn settled belief on all important subjects. With them it was vulgar to think with the multitude on any point. Hence the conclusion of Helvetius. But his sophistry may be easily refuted by an appeal to such a case as that of Laura Bridgman. Here is an individual with only one sense to reveal to her inward perception, the existence of the world without her. She can feel, that is all. So can the ape, and so can the elephant. But while those animals, with all the training that can be bestowed upon them, and with the other four senses in addition, never learn the science of arithmetic, nor the use of arbitrary signs for the expression of ideas, behold Laura Bridgman, with an irrepressible curiosity, not only seeking a knowledge of external objects, but performing mental operations, and actually framing words! How can we explain this? Not by such miserable perversion of reasoning as Helvetius exhibits, but by a reference to the true cause, the specific difference between the Man, and the lower animals—a difference not merely accidental, but essential; not in degree, but in kind.

This story of Laura suggests many useful reflections. How pliant is the human constitution.—

How easily it adapts itself to the hardest condition, and find enjoyment in the most diverse circumstances. Poor Laura, "for whom the sun has no light, the air no sound, and the flowers no colour nor perfume," and who would seem, by her hard lot, to be shut up to hopeless misery, is, notwithstanding, a cheerful and contented being; as happy as the most envied possessor of the gifts of nature and of fortune. How little does our happiness depend upon external things. The story of poor Laura teaches us all to be contented with such things as we have.

From this case, pregnant with interest and instruction, let me draw one reflection more. Behold how mind can rise upward against all that tends to repress its development. If ever there was a mind which would seem, by the condition of its existence, to be doomed to hopeless imbecility, it was the mind of Laura Bridgman. Yet see her, with faculties unfolding and intellect developing, rising step by step, from darkness to light, and eagerly seeking after truth. Let no one then, whose senses are perfect, despair. With the senses of hearing and sight, how comparatively easy the progress to knowledge. Your ears may drink in the counsels of wisdom, and your eye may glance over "the ample page, rich with the spoils of time." Then arouse—make the effort. I cannot, never accomplished any thing great—I will try, has done wonders. That simple resolution carried Bacon, and Newton, and Franklin, forward in the career of discovery. Let that resolve be yours, and though you may never achieve what they did, you may at least acquire that energy and independence, that balance & harmony of mind, and that freedom from the thralldom of vulgar prejudice and mere authority, which shall fit you for enjoyment as an individual, and for usefulness as a member of society.

By publishing the account of this "Remarkable Human Phenomenon," you will oblige, perhaps, some of your readers. A. B.

From the Hartford (Conn.) Courant.

Remarkable Human Phenomenon.

The last report of the Boston Asylum for the Blind gives a large variety of further intelligence concerning the progress of Laura Bridgman, the little girl of whom our readers have heard something. Besides being deaf, and dumb, and blind, she is also deprived of the sense of smell, and enjoys taste but imperfectly—the touch alone, being the medium of communication between her and the outer world. It is gratifying to know that careful observations continue to be made with a view of ascertaining the order of developments, and the peculiar character of her intellectual faculties. We quote the following interesting facts:

The intellectual improvement of this interesting being, and the progress she has made in expressing her ideas is truly gratifying.

She uses the manual alphabet of the deaf mutes, with great facility and great rapidity; she has increased her vocabulary so as to comprehend the names of all common objects.

She can count to high numbers; she can add and subtract small numbers.

But the most gratifying acquirement which she has made, and the one which has given her the most delight, is the power of writing a legible hand, and expressing her thoughts upon paper. She writes with a pencil in a grooved line, and makes her letters clear and distinct.

She was sadly puzzled at first to know the meaning of the process to which she was subject, but when the idea dawned upon her mind, that by means of it she could convey intelligence to her mother, her delight was unbounded. She applied herself with great diligence, and in a few months actually wrote a legible letter to her mother, in which she conveyed information of her being well, and of her coming home in ten weeks.

She has improved very much in personal appearance, as well as in intellect—her countenance beams with intelligence—she is always active at study, work, or play—she never repines, and most of the time is gay and frolicsome.

She is now very expert with her needle; she knits very easily, and can make twine bags and various fancy articles, very prettily. She is very docile—has a quick sense of propriety—dresses herself with great neatness, and is always correct in her deportment. In short, it would be difficult to find a child in the possession of all her senses, and the enjoyment of the advantages that wealth and parental love can bestow, who is more contented and cheerful, or to whom existence seems a greater blessing than it does to this bereaved creature, for whom the sun has no light, the air no sound, and the flowers no color or perfume.

No definite course of instruction can be marked out; for her inquisitiveness is so great, that she is very much disconcerted if any question which occurred to her is deferred until the lesson is over. It is deemed best to gratify her, if her inquiry has any bearing on the lesson; and often she leads her teacher far away from the subject he commenced with.

In her eagerness to advance her knowledge of words, and to communicate her ideas, she coins words, and is always guided by analogy. Sometimes her process of word making is very interesting; for instance, after some time spent in giving her an idea of the abstract meaning of alone, she seemed to obtain it, and understanding that being by one's self was to be alone, or alone. She was told to go to her chamber, or school, or elsewhere, and return alone, she did so; but soon after, wishing to go with one of the little girls, she strove to express her meaning thus—Laura go al-two.

She has the same fondness for a dress, for ribbons, and for finery, as other girls of her age, and as a proof that it arises from the same amiable desire of pleasing others, it may be remarked that whenever she has a new bonnet, or any new arti-

cle of dress, she is particularly desirous to go to meeting; or to go out with it. If people do not notice it, she directs their attention by placing their hand upon it.

She seems to have a perception of character, and to have no esteem for those who have little intellect. The following anecdote is significant of her perception of character, and shows that from her friends she requires something more than good-natured indulgence.

A new scholar entered school—a little girl about Laura's age. She was very helpless, and Laura took great pride and great pains in showing her the way about the house, assisting her to dress and undress, and doing for her many things which she could not do herself.

In a few weeks it began to be apparent even to Laura, that the child was not only helpless, but naturally very stupid, being almost an idiot. Then Laura gave her up in despair and avoided her, and has ever since had an aversion to being with her, passing by her as if in contempt. By a natural association of ideas she attributes to this child all those countless deeds which Mr. Nobody does in every house—if a chair is broken, or any thing misplaced and no one knows who did it, Laura attributes it at once to this child.

With regard to the sense of touch it is very acute, even for a blind person. It is shown remarkably in the readiness with which she distinguishes persons; there are forty inmates in the female wing, with all of whom, of course, Laura is acquainted; whenever she is walking through the passage way, she perceives by the jar of the floor, or the agitation of the air, that some one is near her, and it is exceedingly difficult to pass her without being recognized. Her little arms are stretched out, and the instant she grasps a hand, a sleeve, or even part of the dress, she knows the person and lets them pass on with some sign of recognition.

The innate desire for knowledge, and the instinctive efforts which the human faculties make to exercise their functions, is shown most remarkably in Laura. Her tiny fingers are to her as eyes, and ears and nose, and most deftly and incessantly does she keep them in motion; like feelers of some insect which are continually agitated, and which touch every grain of sand in the path, so Laura's arms and hands are continually in play; and when she is walking with a person she not only recognizes every thing she passes within touching distance, but by continually touching her companion's hands she ascertains what he is doing. A person walking across the room while she had hold on his left arm, would find it hard to take a pencil out of his waistcoat pocket with his right hand without her perceiving it.

Her judgment of distances and of relations of place is very accurate; she will rise from her seat, go straight towards the door, put out her hand just at the right time, and grasp the handle with precision.

The constant and tireless exercise of her feelers give her a very accurate knowledge of every thing about the house; so that if a new article, a bundle, handbox, or even a new book is laid any where in the apartment which she frequents, it would be but a short time before in her ceaseless rounds she would find it, and from something about it she would generally discover to whom it belonged.

At table, if told to be still, she sits and conducts herself with propriety; handles her cup, spoon, and fork like other children; so that a stranger looking at her would take her for a very pretty child with a green ribbon over her eyes.

But when at liberty to do as she chooses, she is continually feeling of things, and ascertaining their size, shape, destiny, and use—asking their names and their purposes, going on with insatiable curiosity, step by step, towards knowledge.

Thus does her active mind, though all silent and darkling within, commune by means of her one sense with things external, and gratify its innate craving for knowledge by close and ceaseless attention.

Qualities and appearances, unappreciable or unheeded by others, are to her of great significance and value; and by means of these her knowledge of external nature and physical relations will in time become extensive.

Lives of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence from Pennsylvania.

(CONTINUED.)

Robert Morris. Continued. Party Spirit prevailed over his logic and eloquence; but the exertions of the friends of the institute were in the succeeding legislature, crowned with success. He was also elected a member of the Convention which framed the federal Constitution. No man had more often and severely felt the effects of an efficient government. He had incessantly asked for a stronger bond or instrument, than the old Confederation, for "a firm, wise, manly system of federal government;" and he strenuously co-operated in devising and recommending the present.

In 1788, the General Assembly of Pennsylvania appointed him to represent the State, in the first Senate of the United States, which assembled at New York. As a member of that body, he distinguished himself by wise counsels, and particularly by an irresistible speech for the repeal of the tender laws. He was a fluent, correct, and impressive orator, he wrote with ease and terseness; his fund of political knowledge could not but be ample; his acquaintance with the affairs of the world exceeded in extent and diversity that of any of his fellow patriots, Franklin excepted; his conversation was therefore replete with interest and instruction. When the federal government was organized, Washington offered him the post of Secretary of the Treasury, which he declined; and, being requested to designate a person for it, he named General Hamilton,—"a most happy, though not an expected choice."

At the conclusion of the war, he was among the first who engaged in the East India and China trade. In the spring of 1784, he despatched the ship "Empress of China," Capt. Greene, of New York to Canton, being the first American vessel, that ever appeared in that port. He also made the first attempt of what is called the out of season passage to China. In prosecution of this object the ship Alliance, Capt. Reed equipped with ten 12 pounders, and 65 men, sailed from the Delaware, June 20th, 1787, and arrived in safety December 20th, at Canton, where considerable inquiries were made by the European commanders respecting the routes that had been taken, as it was wholly a novel thing for a vessel to arrive at that season of the year. As no ship had ever before made a similar passage great astonishment was manifested; and the Lords of the admiralty subsequently applied to Mr. Morris for information with regard to the ship.

It is said that her probable route was, previous to her departure marked out by Mr. Morris with the assistance of Gouverneur Morris. In his old age Mr. Morris embarked on vast land speculations which proved fatal to his fortune. The man to whose financial operations the Americans was said to owe as much as to the negotiations of Franklin, or even to the arms, of Washington, passed the latter years of his life in prison confined for debt. He sunk into the tomb on the 8th of May, 1806, in the 73d year of his age. Mr. Morris was of large frame, with a fine, open, bland countenance, and simple manners. Until the period of his impoverishment, his house was a scene of the most liberal hospitality. It was open for nearly half a century to all the strangers of good society who visited Philadelphia. He was temperate in food but fond of convivial meetings. No one parted with his money more freely for public or private purposes of a meritorious nature.

James Wilson, was born in Scotland, about 1742, his father was a respectable farmer.—He studied successively at Glasgow, St. Andrews and Edinburgh, and then left Scotland for America. He arrived in 1766, in Philadelphia; where he was first employed as a classical tutor in the Philadelphia College, and required a high reputation as a classical scholar. He soon however relinquished that occupation, and commenced the study of the law, in the office of the celebrated John Dickinson. At the expiration of 2 years; he was admitted to the bar, and began to practice first at Reading and then at Carlisle. From the latter place he removed to Philadelphia in 1777, where he continued to reside until his death.

He was elected in 1775 to Congress, and was a uniform advocate to the declaration of Independence, though he may have thought perhaps, that the measure was brought forward prematurely; he voted in favor of it, as well on the first of July, in opposition to the majority of his colleagues from Pennsylvania, as on the 4th in conjunction with the majority. In 1777, he was superseded in Congress through the influence of party spirit, but in '82 he was again honoured with a seat. In '79 he received the appointment of advocate General for the French Government in the U. S.; an office the duties of which were both arduous and delicate. He resigned it in 1781. He continued to give advice in such cases as were laid before him by the ministers and consuls of France, until '83 when the French transmitted to him a present of 10,000 Livres. In 1787 Mr. Wilson was a member of the Convention which framed the constitution of the United States, and was one of the committee who reported the draught. In the state Convention of Pennsylvania, he was principally efficient in causing the Constitution to be adopted. He was subsequently a member of the convention which formed the late Constitution of our State, and being one of the committee appointed to prepare, was intrusted with the duty to make the draught of the necessary form. In 1789, he was appointed by President Washington, as Judge of the Supreme Court of the United States; and whilst on a circuit in North Carolina, in discharge of his duties as such, he died at Edenton 28th of August, 1798, aged about 56 years. As a lawyer and judge Mr. Wilson was eminent for talent and integrity. In private life he was courteous, kind, and hospitable. His political and legal disquisitions are extant in three volumes, and much esteemed.

George Clymer, was born in 1729, in Philadelphia, of a respectable family. His father emigrated from Bristol, England. The death of his parents left George an orphan at the age of 7 years; but he was well taken care of by his uncle Wm. Coleman, who bequeathed to him the principal part of his fortune. After the completion of his studies young Clymer entered his uncles counting-house, though his inclination for cultivating his mind was much greater than for mercantile pursuits. When discontent had been excited in the colonies, by the arbitrary acts of the British Parliament, he was among the first in Pennsylvania, to raise his voice in opposition and he was chairman of a meeting held in Philadelphia, Oct. 16th, 1773, to demand of the commissioners for selling the Tea which had been imported in America on

account of the East India Company, their resignation of the office. The demand was complied with. Mr. Clymer was afterwards chosen a member of the Council of safety, and in 1775 one of the first Continental Treasurers.

His zeal in the cause of his country was displayed by subscribing himself, as well as by encouraging the subscriptions of others, to the loan opened for the purpose of rendering more effective the opposition to the British, and also by the distinguished manner in which he exchanged all his specie for Continental currency. In July 1776 he was chosen with Dr. Rush, and others, to supply the vacancy in Congress occasioned by the resignation of the members of the Pennsylvania delegation, who had refused their assent to the declaration of Independence. The new members were not present when the instrument was agreed upon, but they all affixed to it their signatures. In the autumn of '77 his house in Chester County in which his family resided was plundered by a band of British soldiers, and his property greatly damaged. His services in the cause of liberty seemed indeed to have rendered him peculiarly obnoxious to the British. In 1780, Mr. C. was the member of an association which made an offer in Congress of establishing a Bank for the sole purpose of supplying the army, which was on the point of disbanding in consequence of the distressing condition.—Congress accepted the offer and pledged the faith of the United States to the subscribers to the Bank for their full indemnity. Mr. C. was one of the gentlemen selected to preside over the institution, the good effects of which were long felt. In November, he was elected to Congress, and though advocated there he established a national Bank.

In the Autumn of 1784, during which year party spirit had raged with great violence in Pennsylvania, he was elected to the Legislature, to assist in opposing the Constitutionalists, who were so termed in consequence of their upholding the old constitution, which was justly deemed defective.

Pennsylvania is greatly indebted to his exertions for the amelioration of her penal code, which had previously been of so sanguinary a nature as to produce extreme & almost universal discontent. Mr. C. was also a member of the Convention which framed the present constitution of the Federal Government, and was elected to the first Congress which met, when it was about to be carried into operation. In 1796, he was appointed by President Washington, together with Col. Hawkins and Picken to negotiate a treaty with the Creek and Cherokee Indians of Georgia. He subsequently became the first President of the Philadelphia Bank and of the academy of fine arts. He died January 23d, 1813, in the 74th year of his age, at Morrisville, Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

From the Pontiac (Michigan) Jacksonian Extra. AWFUL CONFLAGRATION—PONTIAC IN ASHES.

PONTIAC, Thursday, April 3d, 2 p. m.

We hasten to announce the heart-rending intelligence that our late flourishing village is now one almost universal heap of ruins!

The fire broke out about noon in the Exchange, formerly occupied by F. Budington, corner of Saginaw and Lawrence streets. The wind was blowing fresh from the west. It was soon found impossible to save the building. An effort was then made to prevent the fire from reaching the opposite side of the street; this was soon found impossible, as the wind freshened. The fire first caught on the east side of Saginaw street, we believe in the building occupied by Messrs. Marsh and Hendrickson. It soon communicated to those on each side.

The flames from both sides of Saginaw street, now mingled into one, presented a vast and uninterrupted sheet from one side to the other, and reached far over to the east, consuming every thing in its course.

On the west side, every thing was swept clean, down to the building corner of Saginaw and Pike streets; on the east every thing to Pike street, about 25 buildings in all, besides barns and other out-houses; and this in the very heart and business of the place. The property destroyed is immense.

Twenty-one States were represented in the 1840 Van Buren National Convention.